

Definitions

The following terms are associated with this Instruction Memorandum (IM). The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) offices may use other definitions specific to their office or geographic area, so long as the definitions are consistent with the intent of this IM. These definitions may be found in land use plans, state sage-grouse plans, etc.

- **AUTHORIZED USE:** Uses of public land (or other lands where the BLM manages the mineral estate) authorized, including agriculture development; residential (under certain conditions), business, industrial, and commercial uses; advertising; research projects; National Guard maneuvers; and motion picture filming.
- **CONSERVATION MEASURE:** An action taken for the protection, maintenance, management, sustainable use, restoration, and enhancement of Greater Sage-Grouse habitats or populations. Also referred to as protective measures.
- **CORE AREAS:** The term “Core” is associated with state-designated areas identified as the most important for Greater Sage-Grouse. Some states utilize a distance surrounding the largest leks, while other states use other methods including designating all occupied habitat as Core.
- **FRAGMENTATION:** 1) Patches of habitat separated from larger patches of habitat that reduce the capacity to produce wildlife; 2) the separation of an organism’s environment in such a manner as to inhibit species movement and/or facilitate distribution of disruptive elements, e.g., predators, noxious weeds, etc.
- **LIFE HISTORY FUNCTIONS:** Includes breeding, nesting, brood-rearing, wintering, migration, etc.
- **MINOR ADVERSE EFFECTS:** Those effects that would not impact sage-grouse population sustainability.
- **MITIGATION:** An action undertaken to avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce, or compensate for an adverse effects.
- **OCCUPIED HABITAT:** The area currently used by Greater Sage-Grouse during any point in its life history. This use may be for a short amount of time (i.e., migration) or used throughout the year. In addition, this includes areas used inconsistently and/or seasonally.
- **RESTORATION:** The process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed. Restoration attempts to return an ecosystem to its historic trajectory (i.e., to a state that resembles a known prior state or to another state that would be expected to develop naturally within the bounds of the historic trajectory). The restored ecosystem may not necessarily recover its former state, since contemporary constraints and conditions can cause it to develop along an altered trajectory.
- **SURFACE DISTURBANCE:** Any action created through mechanized or mechanical means that would cause soil mixing or result in alteration or removal of soil or vegetation and expose the mineral soil to erosive processes. Used in the literal context of actual, physical disturbance, and movement or removal of the land surface and vegetation.

Examples include construction of roads and trails, well pads, pits, reservoirs, pipelines, and facilities. Emergency activities, rangeland monitoring, routine maintenance associated with an approved authorization, dispersed recreational activities (e.g., hunting, hiking), and livestock grazing are not considered surface disturbance.